

JDOC keeps eyes focused on 'bad guys'

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

The defense of Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area Anaconda rests on a group of dedicated Airmen and Soldiers who spend their days in the Joint Defense Operations Center, watching over the installation and its members, relaying the information necessary for the capture of enemies and protection of resources.

The primary mission of the Airmen working in the JDOC is airfield defense.

"We have assets in place here serving as valuable resources to Airmen and our sister services fighting the war on the ground," said Tech. Sgt. Andrew Rodriguez, a battle noncommissioned officer at the JDOC. "It's our job to make sure those assets are protected."

Staff Sgt. Sean Hannah, a senior con-

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

Army honors Airmen

Brig. Gen. Yves Fontaine, 1st Corps Support Command commanding general, presented Army Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medals to members of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Detachment 1 convoy escorts for their successful support of Army convoys. Receiving Bronze Stars were Capt. Maria Roberts, 1st Lt. Edward Torres, Chief Master Sgt. Paul McGinnis, Master Sgts. David John, James Muncy and Gary Vercher, Tech. Sgts. Timothy Waggoner, Lance Boeding, Michael Powers and Richard Snider and Airman 1st Class Aaron Mendez. Receiving the Meritorious Service Medal was Master Sgt. Donna Noel.

Reporting in



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Fighting fire with knowledge



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Staying connected



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Photo by Senior Airman Jason Roberston

Change of command

Col. Frank Sullivan assumes command of the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group at a change of command ceremony Aug. 26 at Town Hall. Colonel Sullivan arrived from the 193rd Special Operations Wing out of Middletown, Pa., where he was the commander for the 193rd Mission Support Group.

News note

Leadership course

Chief Master Sgt. John Hearn, a former Air Force Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy instructor, will teach six professional development classes geared for supervisors of all services.

Each class will last approximately two hours.

Class times are 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Sept. 13 and ending Sept. 29. Location for all classes is at Town Hall. The goal is for each student to attend all classes, mission permitting.

Interested Airmen should contact Senior Master Sgt. Graham Smith, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing first sergeant, prior to the first session at 443-6046.

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad AB members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The Red Tail Flyer will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad AB population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at 332cc.action-line@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.



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The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the Friday prior to the date of publication.

PERSCO team has you covered

Team acts as MPF for Airmen deployed to Iraq

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

For anything from promotions to separations, the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group personnel support for contingency operations team here is serving as a military personnel flight in the field.

From the moment newly arrived Airmen step off the plane at Balad, the PERSCO team is there, welcoming them and serving as the first stop in their introduction to the base.

"We make sure when people arrive there is someone from their unit here to greet them," said Master Sgt. Craig Nielsen, PERSCO superintendent. "We also coordinate with the services squadron to make sure new troops have a place to stay."

Throughout the rotation, the PERSCO team is here to provide support for daily issues.

"We can handle all the issues you

would take to your orderly room at your home station," said Sergeant Nielsen. "We handle issues including promotion, retirement, separation, change of station notification and re-enlistment as well applications for special duties and updating dream sheets."

While the PERSCO team can't make real-time updates to an Airman's records, they act as a liaison to home stations.

"There are a lot of issues that Airmen try to handle on their own that we can help with," said Sergeant Nielsen. "It becomes more difficult when you factor in the time difference. Airmen here are dealing with a lot on a day-to-day basis ensuring mission success. We can take a little off their plates."

The PERSCO team has members deployed to many locations throughout Iraq, handling the issues of the Airmen at forward operating bases.

"Even if you're not here at Balad, were going to take care of you," said Sergeant Nielsen.

When it's time for Airmen to redeploy,

the PERSCO team is responsible for making sure replacements are scheduled to fill the vacant positions. Whether it be an Airman leaving early or being extended, the PERSCO team handles the details to ensure positions are filled.

"Without people, the mission couldn't be accomplished," said Sergeant Nielsen. "We are just part of the big picture that keeps the wing running smoothly. We are here for the Airmen stationed here and throughout Iraq."



Photos by Senior Airman Shaun Emery



Senior Airman Christopher Hobbs, PERSCO team member, goes over paperwork with Airmen arriving for AEF rotation 7/8.

Master Sgt. Craig Nielsen, PERSCO superintendent, greets Senior Airman Michael Christopher as he arrives at Balad. The 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group PERSCO team briefs Airmen when they arrive and takes care of day-to-day issues during the rotation.



(Left) Iraqi oil protection personnel enter a training facility to extinguish a fire at the culmination of their three-day training. Kirkuk firefighters taught them basic first aid, CPR and firefighting skills.



Tech. Sgt. Norman Harrington, 506th ECES, teaches an Iraqi firefighter how to don his protective equipment.

Courtesy photo

Kirkuk firefighters train Iraqi pipeline personnel

By Tech. Sgt. J. LaVoie
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq – In order to stabilize Iraq, coalition forces must teach Iraqis the skills they need to stand on their own.

The firefighters of the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer squadron are doing their part in this important mission by teaching Iraqis first aid and basic firefighting skills.

“Seeing them progress from very little knowledge, to being able to attack and extinguish a fire at the end training, and the gratitude they had for our assistance was one of the most rewarding times in my career,” said Staff Sgt. Ben Donnerstag, 506th ECES firefighter. “I was glad to be able to share my knowledge with the Iraqi firefighters so I could help them to be better trained in helping their fellow countrymen and women in the event of an emergency.”

Sergeant Donnerstag said it’s especially important for these Iraqis to learn these skills, because they’re part of the unit that protects the oil pipeline and successfully transporting that oil via pipeline to refineries in Bayji and Baghdad is critical to their economy.

“I will use this class to help my friends and help the Iraqi people,” said Mudhafer, oil protection force driver, through a translator. “I want to say thank you for the fire departments help and for the information.”

In the class they cover basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and firefighting principles and techniques.

“We cover as much in three days as they cover in six weeks at home. It’s a crash course,” said Master Sgt. Terry Edwards, 50th ECES deputy fire chief. “They are very eager to learn and they pick the information up quickly. They learn enough about firefighting to keep them from getting hurt.”

According to one of the instructors, this class is about first aid and firefighting, it’s about giving the Iraqis a helping hand.

“It provides them with options and opens a door for them to see what they can do. We want to give them a sense of well being,” said Tech. Sgt. Norman Harrington, 506th ECES. “We do this training so they can do for themselves. It will allow them to get back on their feet.”

The Iraqis aren’t the only ones taking something away from this class.

“I have really learned a lot from working with Iraqi firefighters,” said Tech. Sgt. Clifford Snyder, 506th ECES. “Before I came over here I was under the impression we were not wanted here, but now I realize they are very appreciative of everything we are doing for them. They want the opportunity to work and earn a living just like anybody.”

The Airmen of Kikuk’s fire department also received a newfound respect for these trainees, many of whom are targeted just for attending this type of training.

“They are very eager to learn,” said Staff Sgt. Jerry D. Carter, Sr., 506th ECES. “These Iraqi men put their lives on the line just by coming to this base to get the training they need; I have a great deal of respect for their courage.”

Troubleshooting for the future

By Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

In today's Air Force, communication is crucial and what better way to stay ahead of the game than by fixing problems before they arise?

That is exactly what one group of Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron are doing, which should ultimately troubleshoot future communications problems.

"When a base is first set up, the communications systems are set up for quick usage," said Senior Airman Doug Brown, a satellite communications technician deployed from Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

"Once they (antennas and cables) are replaced, it should prevent future problems for years," added Senior Airman Matthew Heist, a radio maintenance technician from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Once the base is up and running, it's common for these Airmen to come in, clean up and make the communication systems a little more permanent.

"We are moving all comm installations from tactical setup to a fixed setup," said Airman Heist.

The command post here is just one project the 332nd ECS Airmen are working on right now. As a result of both a quick setup and bad weather here, the antennas are ready for an overhaul.

"We are replacing all the antennas and cables for the command post," said Airman Brown.

"Rain can rust the connectors, and wind can cause the cables to rub together making them fray and separate from the antennas," said Airman Heist. "Once the new antennas are in place, they will be heavily fastened to the roof."

Even though the command post hasn't reported any commu-

nications problems as of yet, it would be just a matter of time before their connectivity would start to diminish, according to Airman Brown.

"Eventually it (command post) might have communications failures and interference, which can cause static," said Airman Brown.

"Even the giant voice system would eventually have problems working correctly," said Airman Heist.

The Airmen from the 332nd ECS here are also currently fixing the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron and the maintenance operations center communication systems and will eventually make every facility's connectivity more permanent.



Photos by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

Senior Airmen Doug Brown (left) and Matthew Heist of the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron look for the correct connector to interface an existing cable to a new antenna.



Airman Doug Brown takes down an antenna from the top of the wing headquarters building here.

Going home:

Airmen face new challenges reintegrating with loved ones

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Airmen preparing to redeploy to their home stations should be aware that the process of reuniting with loved ones takes work, and the expectations of the service-member and their family may not always be the same, according to Lt. Col. Giorgio Santambrogio, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group psychiatrist.

"Reality is typically not the same as the fantasies Airmen have of returning home," he said. "Every Airman has his or her own challenges to face when returning home," he said. "Many will be torn between the excitement of being home and the stress that comes with resolving any conflicts they may have had."

Colonel Santambrogio said that many Airmen face relationship issues while they are deployed and those may take a lot of work after an Airman's return, especially between married members.

"Both will have gone through a lot of changes," he said. "The key to success is communication."

When an Airman returns home, it's the first face-to-face contact they have had with their spouse in months. Understanding that the reintegration may take time is important.

"They must also understand that everything may not be perfect," said Colonel Santambrogio. "Roles and responsibilities may have changed over the deployment. Sometimes it's hard to relinquish those roles when you get home."

That's why communication becomes important, explained the colonel.

"A person needs to communicate what their expectations and desires are upon returning home. Some may want to get out and see people, while some may want some peace and quiet for a few days," said Colonel Santambrogio. "By communicating, the transition can be made easier."

Airmen returning to their home station will also deal with reintegrating themselves back into their office, which comes with its own stress. Like other areas in life, a person's work environment will have changed during their deployment.

"New coworkers, new responsibilities and finding where you belong in your organization will be tough," said Col. Santambrogio. "Communication at work is just as important as it is at home."

When redeploying, Airmen should take into account the stresses they will face and be prepared to meet them head on.

Upon returning home, Airmen can seek guidance from their family support centers or life skills office. If an Airman is not comfortable with those options, Colonel Santambrogio said talking with someone who's been deployed before may offer some insight on positive ways to manage stress.

"There are a lot of Airmen who have faced similar situations," said the colonel.

Airmen redeploying who have questions or concerns can contact the 332nd EMDG life skills office at 443-7306. The office is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sundays.



DCU sleeves will be worn down. "Cuffing"/shortening sleeves or folding the cuffs into the sleeves is not authorized. This regulation can be found in 332 AEWI 36-2903 Section 2.4.1. Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.



Right



Wrong

JDOC, from Page 1

troller, said Airmen at the JDOC are like a funnel, taking in all the important data, filtering it and getting it to the right people.

"We're used to getting thrown information from all sides at our home stations," said Sergeant Hannah. "The difference here is that how you use that information could mean the difference between life and death."

Using a system of cameras and radar, JDOC members survey the areas surrounding the installation. Targets are tracked according to size; and locations of known activity are closely monitored. On one wall, numerous screens show enlarged pictures of the landscape. Controllers watch intently, waiting for an opportunity to investigate suspicious activity.

"It's not always the most exciting job in the world," said

Airman 1st Class Nathan Lewis, an operator, who monitors the action on and off base. "But if I have to sit here looking at screens all day to keep our people safe, then I'll do it."

"It's one thing to stand at a gate all day, checking IDs to provide security for our personnel. At the JDOC, we're helping take the fight to the enemy," he said. "Using the technology we have, we are able to warn the base of an attack, plot the point of origin, track the enemy to his house and catch the bad guys."

Currently, there is a new rotation of Airmen working their way into the JDOC, waiting for the opportunity to track and capture bad guys. It's a goal that they are striving for and they say keeps them hungry.

"The last crew that was here had some captures," said Sergeant Hannah. "Our folks in Air Expeditionary Force 7/8 want to get some under our belt as well."

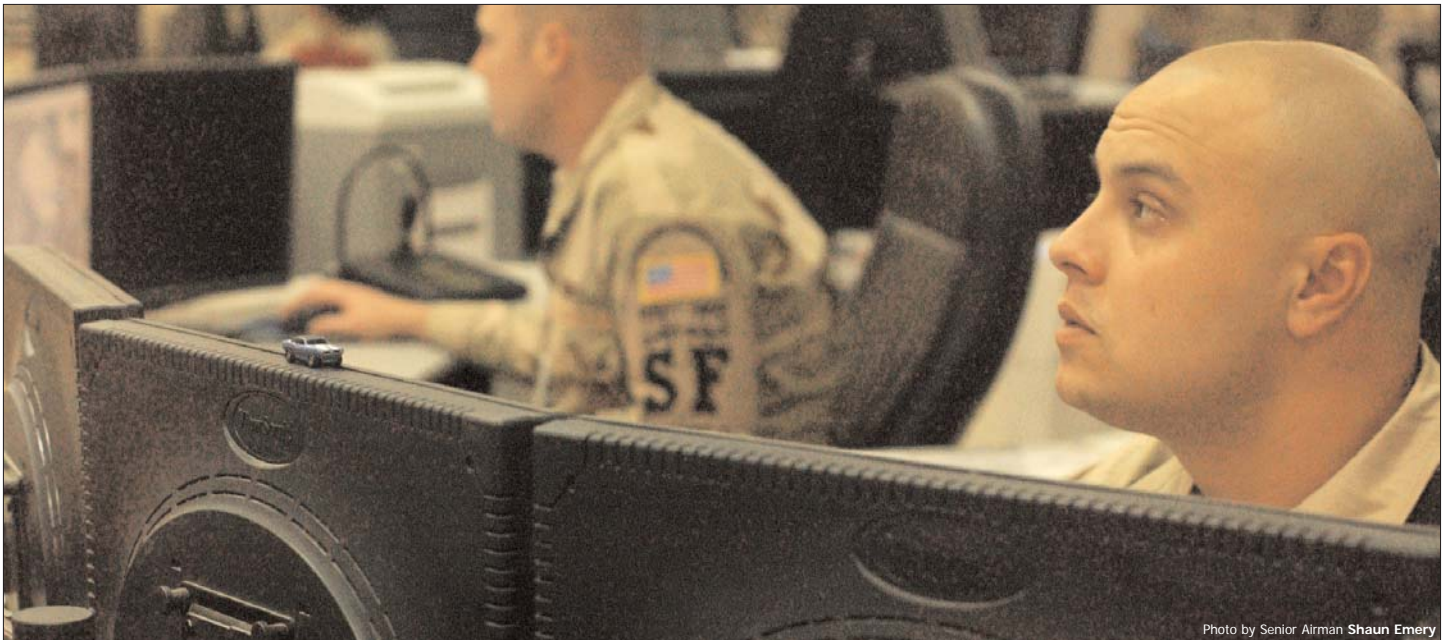


Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Airman 1st Class Nathan Lewis, an operator, monitors video taken by cameras around Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area Anaconda from his station at the Joint Defense Operations Center.

Diamond notes

Airmen arriving at Balad Air Base can pick up free ironing boards at the Air Force lodging office.

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing First Sergeant.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th SPT BN Sundays and Wednesdays

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays
8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays
4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

Capt. Kelly Sams

Home station: Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Unit: 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing protocol office

Hobbies: Running, reading and playing with my children.

How do you contribute to the mission?

Host distinguished visitors and official functions on behalf of the wing commander.

What is your favorite aspect of deployment?

The camaraderie and team aspects of deployment.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? McDonald's french fries.

Know what this is?

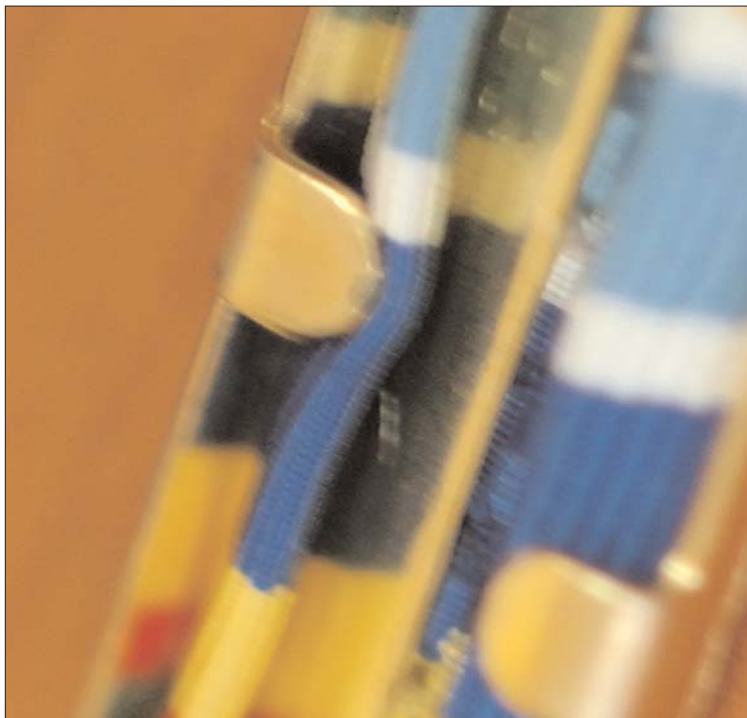


Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Last week's photo of a roll of duct tape was first identified by Wayne Pugh, Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - War of the Worlds
6 p.m. - Herbie Fully Loaded
9 p.m. - Valiant

Saturday, September 3

3 p.m. - Bewitched
6 p.m. - Valiant
9 p.m. - War of the Worlds

Sunday, September 4

3 p.m. - The Perfect Man
6 p.m. - Herbie Fully Loaded
9 p.m. - Land of the Dead

Monday, September 5

3 p.m. - Bewitched

6 p.m. - War of the Worlds
9 p.m. - Batman Begins

Tuesday, September 6

3 p.m. - Valiant
6 p.m. - The Perfect Man
9 p.m. - Herbie Fully Loaded

Wednesday, September 7

3 p.m. - Land of the Dead
6 p.m. - Valiant
9 p.m. - War of the Worlds

Thursday, September 8

3 p.m. - Wedding Crashers
6 p.m. - Wedding Crashers
9 p.m. - Wedding Crashers

